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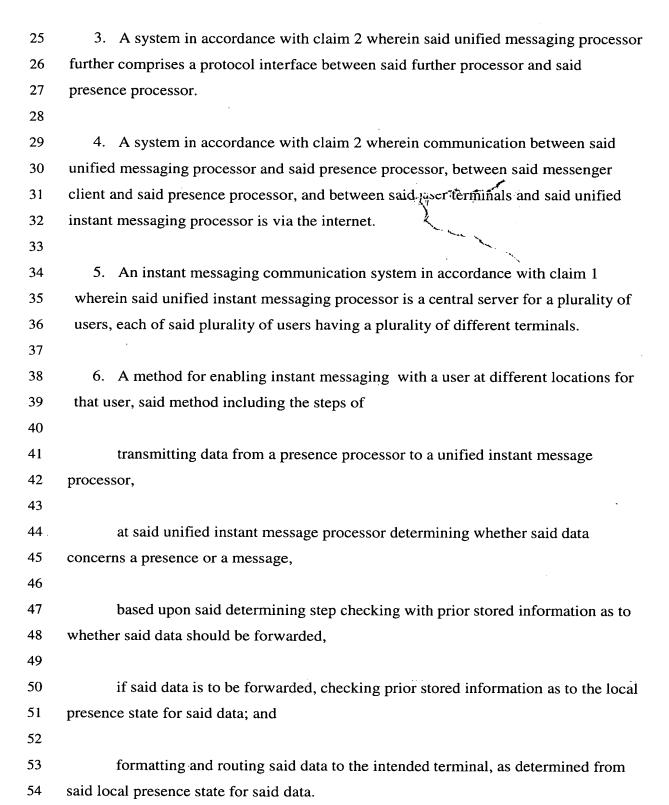




CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1	1. An instant messaging communication system that enables a user to obtain
2	instant messaging at destination devices other than the user's normal terminals, said
3	system comprising
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5	a presence processor,
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7	a messenger client connected to said presence processor, and
8	
9	a unified instant messaging processor communicating with said presence
10	processor and with said user terminals, said unified instant message processor
11	including
12	
13	means for storing user defined terminal selections and for storing use
14	preferences, and
15	
16	a further processor connected to said storing means and comprising
17	state reporting means for receiving from said unified instant message processor
18	information as to the user defined local presence states and means for formatting
19	and routing data in communication with said presence processor.
20	
21	2. A system in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means for formatting and
22	routing data comprises means for formatting and routing message data and means fo
23	formatting and routing presence data.



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7. The method in accordance with claim 6 further enabling a user to reply to a	
forwarded instant message and wherein said formatting and routing step comprises	
including within the forwarded message a specific return address including correlation	
information, and said method further comprising the steps of	
monitoring said return address for a reply from the user terminal,	
accepting the reply from a user terminal, correlating the reply with a proper	

accepting the reply from a user terminal, correlating the reply with a proper instant messaging session, and translating the reply into a format acceptable to the presence processor, and

delivering the reply to the proper instant messaging session on the presence processor.

- 8. The method in accordance with claim 7 wherein communication between the unified instant message processor and a user terminal is via email.
- 9. The method in accordance with claim 8 wherein said unified instant message processor runs a Simple Mail Transport Protocol process and creates dynamic email addresses to do correlation.
- 10. The method in accordance with claim 6 further comprising the step of registering with the presence processor on behalf of a user.
- 11. The method in accordance with claim 10 wherein said registering step comprises the steps of

the unified instant message processor prompting the user for a local state, the unified instant message processor reporting the user global state to the presence processor, and

the presence processor delivering to the unified instant messaging processor status information for buddies of the user.